utilisation in all these 82 power stations? Will you come back to the House with this information?

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: जो 82 पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उनमें से अधिकतम 75 प्रतिशत राज्यों के हैं और 25 प्रतिशत भारत सरकार के उपक्रम एन॰टी॰पी॰सी॰ के हैं।

श्री दीपाकंर मुखर्जी: आप ऐसे राज्यों के ऊपर मत छोड़िए।

श्री सभापति: हो गया, हो गया।

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: मैं जवाब दे रहा हूं। इसलिए निरंतर राज्यों से मंत्रालय की ओर से सम्पर्क हो रहा है कि जो पर्यावरण से हमें नोटिफिकेशन के द्वारा समय सीमा दी गई है, उसके मुताबिक प्रतिवर्ष 10 प्रतिशत ऐश का युटिलाइज़ेशन हो और इस पर हमारा ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: हो रहा है या नहीं?

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: हो रहा है।

श्री दीपाकंर मुखर्जी: नहीं...नहीं...एकदम गलत है। 10 परसेंट नहीं हो रहा है। You please bring the information in regard to the level of implementation in each plant.

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, आप एक काम कीजिए कि जहां-जहां भी फ्लाई ऐश का मामला है, उसका कितना-कितना उपयोग हुआ है, उसकी पूरी जानकारी माननीय सदस्य को भेज दीजिए।

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: सर, भेज दूंगा।

Presence of media during anti-terrorist operations

*308. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:†
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media is allowed to have direct access at the time of anti-terrorist operations;

(b) if so, upto what level of protocol or secrecy;

(c) whether it is a fact that many intricate details of anti-terrorist operations are likely to be leaked out through the media; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take care of the risks involved in such permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The media is free to cover such incidents. However, depending upon the nature of the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

incident, certain restrictions can be imposed on account of requirements of anti-terrorist operations and consideration of security and public safety.

(c) and (d) Adequate steps are taken to keep the confidentiality of anti-terrorist operations and no such instance of leakage has come to be noticed.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now metioned that the media is free to cover such incidents. Actually, most of the times, terrorists are made heroes by the media. Sir, through you, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that the then Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu once said that if the terrorists could somehow be starved of the publicity on which they thrive, both their malignant influence and the frequency with which they act would be greatly reduced. Would the hon. Minister consider this aspect—because they have so much experience—so that the media coverage of terrorist activities is reduced? Like many others, the terrorists also want more media coverage. Therefore, would the Government consider restricting media coverage of terrorist activities to the minimum?

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO: Sir, so far as media coverage is concerned, depending on the circumstances, the paramilitary forces evolve their own methods to contain the terrorists during the course of operations. Therefore, we cannot lay down certain guidelines for them. However, during the course of operations, the forces cordon off the area so that nothing happens to the common man, including the media persons.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: The hon. Minister has not replied to my first supplementary. Anyway, I will put my second supplementary. In reply to the main question, he has mentioned, "No such instance of leakage has come to notice". Actually, our own intelligence is weak. The American Police says that it can solve a crime in three hours; the Russian Police says that it can solve a crime in three days, but the Indian Police says, "We know the crime before it is committed." So, it is just like that. They already know what is happening, but, still, they don't want to really control the media. I agree that the media should be free, but if it is against the interests of the country, then it has to be stopped; and no story should be sensationalised, beyond stating the actual facts of a case. So, would the hon. Minister consider laying down some guidelines for the media so that it does not, at least sensationalise things?

उप-प्रधानमंत्री, गृह मंत्रालय के प्रभारी (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): मीडिया के ऊपर नियंत्रण करने और मीडिया के ऊपर रेस्ट्रेक्शन्स लगाने के सरकार मूलत: पक्ष में नहीं है। अलबत्ता मीडिया के लोगों को हम कभी-कभी कहते हैं कि आखिर टैरेरिज्म दुनियाभर में है, यहां पर भी है, जैसे दुनिया के कई लोकतंत्रीय देश हैं, वे कवर करते हैं। मेंगल्ड कोप्स, मरे हुए लोग क्यों नहीं दिखाते। कोई कानून नहीं है, उन्होंने स्वयं अपने लिए कुछ नियंत्रण तैयार किए हैं। हम समझते हैं कि मीडिया को स्वयं या प्रैस काउंसिल को स्वयं इस मामले में विचार करना चाहिए, चिंतन करना चाहिए और कुछ नियंत्रण अपने ऊपर लगाने चाहिए। मैं आपको बता सकता हूं, the Press Council of India which has been established with the objective of preserving the freedom of Press and maintaining standards of newspapers and news agencies has framed a code of ethics, covering aspects of journalism. Keeping in mind the objectives, the Press Council has laid down guidelines for coverage of handouts of militants/terrorists guiding principles. Under these guidelines, it has been impressed upon them that dictates of press notes commanding newspaper to publish them under duress or threats of dire consequence emanating from elements wedded to violence should not be published.

ये जो गाइड लाइन्स हैं, मैं चाहूंगा इन गाइड लाइन्स को और बढ़ाया जाए लेकिन सरकार उनके ऊपर पाबंदी लगाए, इसके पक्ष में सरकार नहीं है।

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, certainly, censorship is not acceptable and in a democracy, it can't be imposed and should not be imposed. The coverage of terrorist acts is a delicate balance between the freedom of information and the requirements of security, as we have seen in the incidents of the Raghunath Mandir and the Aksharadham Mandir, and so on. I am glad that the hon. Home Minister has mentioned the guidelines. I would submit, sometimes, the coverage is very painful-dead bodies being dragged through the streets and things like that.

May I ask the hon. Minister whether he would be inclined to talk again to the Press Council of India to try and see that these guidelines are followed and they are strengthened wherever necessary.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी: माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, सरकार उसके प्रति सजग है। यहां तक कि पिछले दिनों जब अक्षरधाम की घटना हुई, तो इस अक्षरधाम की घटना के बाद मैंने इसकी कवरेज को टेलिविजन पर देखा। एक मरा हुआ टेरेरिस्ट था, जिसे टांग से खींचकर ले जाया जा रहा था। मैंने जब इसके बारे में पूछताछ की तो मुझे एन.एस.जी. वालों ने बताया कि यह स्टैण्डर्ड ड्रिल है क्योंकि बहुत से लोग अपने साथ ग्रेनेड बांधकर लाते हैं, जो कि मरने के बाद भी इनके पास होते हैं, अगर हम इन्हें वैसे ही उठा लें तो हो सकता है कि उठाने वाले दो-चार लोग वहीं मर जाएं।

इसीलिए यह स्टैण्डर्ड ड्रिल है, अगर इस स्टैण्डर्ड ड्रिल को टेलीविजन न दिखाता तो अच्छा होता। लेकिन हम उन्हें नियंत्रित करे या निर्देश दें इसकी बजाय अच्छा यह होगा कि वे स्वयं ही इस मामले में अपने ऊपर आत्मनियंत्रण रखें। आपका जो सुझाव है, हम उस पर जरूर विचार करेंगे।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in this context, I am reminded of what happened during the incident in Bangladesh, how bodies of Indians were shown-hanging their bodies on to poles with their hands and feet tied-and that was a traumatic experience for all of us. Mr. Minister, you mentioned the guidelines of the Press Council of India. Unfortunately, the Press Council of India has no teeth. The question I have for the hon. Minister is, in order to ensure that the guidelines are followed, would this Government consider giving more teeth to the Press Council of India so that, in fact, it can enforce those guidelines?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Frankly, guidelines by the Press Council of India or by any other organisation relating to the media are not intended to be a legal kind of a thing, and it has to be followed by the press and the media on their own. But, if the Press Council of India itself makes some recommendations of the kind you are saying.....

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: They have demanded it publicly ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: That is not in this context. I know the kind of teeth they are demanding. (*Interruptions*) I myself have been a Member of the Press Council of India and I have been a Member of the press itself. Therefore, I am aware of these issues. All that I can say is that this Government is fully committed to the freedom of the press, but, at the same time, the Constitution itself provides that there must be reasonable restrictions. If, within that framework of reasonable restrictions, any such proposal comes to us, we would consider.

Elections to General House of SGPC

*309. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH 'TOHRA':†
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH 'LIBRA':

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the elections to General House of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee (SGPC) are due;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Sardar Gurcharan Singh 'Tohra'.